

www.bsrm.com

ONLY WHEN YOU'RE SAFE, CAN YOU DEFY GRAVITY

BSRM building a safer nation

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE

SHAH CEMENT

LANDSLIDES IN HILLS Causes mostly man-made

Say experts, stress political will for averting repeat of disasters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Man-made causes contributed largely to the recent landslides in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and a political commitment is required to address those causes for averting disaster in the region, say experts.

They also recommended formation of a comprehensive hill land use policy and construction code for building infrastructure, including roads, in the hilly districts.

At a seminar, titled "Landslides in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) -- Causes and Prevention", in the capital's CIRDAP yesterday, the experts said without addressing the man-made causes, it would be impossible to prevent disasters like the June 13 landslides that left over 160 people dead.

They identified hill cutting, unauthorised human settlements, deforestation, faulty infrastructure construction and change in agricultural and forest activities as the main man-made causes behind the landslides.

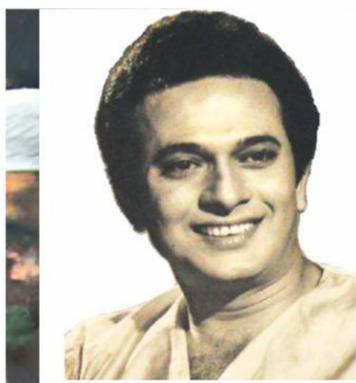
Natural causes like heavy rainfall, effects of earthquake and climate change were also to blame, they said.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi stressed the need for establishing coordination among the relevant agencies to address the matter.

He emphasised on understanding the hill ecology before implementing or even taking up any plans for the areas.

State Minister for CHT Affairs Bir Bahadur Ushwe Singh expressed anger at the lack of coordination among the ministries and departments concerned in dealing with the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Grief-struck Kabori Sarwar, one of the most famous heroines of Nayakraj Razzak, pays her last respect to the deceased film hero at Bangladesh Film Development Corporation in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Twilight descends on Lokkhikunjo

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

With his enduring devotion towards acting, producing and directing Bangla films of Dhallywood, Nayakraj Razzak soared above all and established his position as the Mahanayak (the greatest hero) of Bangladesh. People of the country, from all walks of life, fondly welcomed Nayakraj Razzak into their hearts. When Urdu, Hindi and Bangla films were at their peak, Nayakraj Razzak whole-heartedly dedicated his genius and commitment to creating a unique identity for Bangladeshi films. He started his career in films in a grand manner and when he passed away, it was with glory adorning his very crown. Tens of thousands are now shedding tears for their beloved Mahanayak.

Nestled in the heart of Gulshan 2 is the stately residence Lokkhikunjo which Nayakraj Razzak lovingly named after his wife and where he spent the majority of his life. On

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Orphan sisters find a parent in Rangamati DC

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Meem and Sumaiya, only 6 years and 18 months old respectively, lost their parents in the devastating landslide in a Rangamati town on June 13. But in the aftermath of the tragedy, they have found a guardian in Mohammad Manzurul Mannan, deputy commissioner of Rangamati.

In a unique gesture, the DC has undertaken complete responsibility of raising the two children until they become self-reliant. From now, they will be treated as 'the children of the DC office'.

The DC office will bear all the expenses they need for food, healthcare,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

More US troops for Afghanistan

Trump lambasts Pakistan for harbouring militants; Kabul, Delhi welcome Washington's plan

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump committed US troops to an open-ended war in Afghanistan, a decision the Afghan government welcomed yesterday but which Taliban insurgents warned would make the country a "graveyard for the American empire".

Trump offered few specifics in a speech on Monday but promised a stepped-up military campaign against the Taliban who have gained ground against US-backed Afghan government forces. He also singled out Pakistan for harbouring militants in safe havens on its soil, an accusation it denies.

While Trump said he would not discuss troop levels or details of the new strategy, US officials said on Monday he had signed off on Defense Secretary James Mattis' plans to send about 4,000 more troops to Afghanistan.

Trump said "my original instinct was to pull out" all American troops but he was convinced by his military advisers after a lengthy review of the United States' longest war.

"The consequences of a rapid exit are both predictable and unacceptable," he said. "A hasty withdrawal would create a vacuum that terrorists, including ISIS and al Qaeda, would instantly fill."

While Trump said "our troops will fight to win", he also stressed that

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Instant 'triple talaq' illegal

Declares Indian SC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

In a landmark judgment, India's highest court has ruled that the practice of instant triple talaq in the Muslim community is unconstitutional.

A five-member Supreme Court bench, headed by Chief Justice JS Khehar, yesterday set aside the practice by a three-two majority.

While Justice Khehar and Justice Abdul Nazeer upheld the practice of triple talaq, justices Kurian Joseph, RF Nariman and UU Lalit held that the practice needs to be abolished.

Triple talaq is the practice of instant divorce, whereby a Muslim man can divorce his wife by saying the word "talaq" (divorce) three times.

Justice Khehar said triple talaq enjoys the status of fundamental rights as it is a part of Muslim personal law, but favoured putting the practice aside for six months, allowing parliament to legislate on it.

Justice Khehar and Justice Nazeer, in their minority verdict, asked political parties to set aside their differences and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

The beauty hidden in a Roman painting



MAIL ONLINE

Molten lava, volcanic ash, modern grime, salt, humidity - this ancient painting of a Roman woman has been through it all.

But a new type of high-resolution X-ray technology is helping scientists discover just how stunning the original portrait once was, element by element.

The technique could help conservators more precisely restore the image, and other ancient artworks, to their former glory.

In one of the first field studies of its kind, researchers from the Pratt Institute in New York used a recently developed portable macro X-ray fluorescence instrument.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Gowher Rizvi meets CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi met Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday afternoon.

They held a meeting for an hour at the chief justice's Supreme Court office, Additional Registrar of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court Md Sabbir Faiz and the chief justice's personal assistant Mohammad Anisur

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 23

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-38 8-00

JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-41 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

An ominous sign for country

Says BNP about PM's remarks on CJ, judiciary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the prime minister's remarks about the chief justice "an ominous sign for the country," the BNP yesterday said it would make the country's prevailing situation more confrontational.

The party said Sheikh Hasina, also the Awami League president, made some comments about the highest court, the judiciary and judges and even made a personal attack on Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha.

"We were stunned and perturbed to see this. The ruling party men created an environment by making the judiciary the target of their attack over a verdict. We think this is an ominous sign for the country, nation and politics," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said at an emergency press briefing at the party chief's Gulshan office.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



The Gandhi Ashram, set up in 1946 in Barisal's Bakerganj upazila, is in a bad shape now. Run by a 10-member trust committee, it has a tin shed, a half-finished one-storey building and a primary school in its compound. The trustees are hopeful of reviving the ashram with support from benevolent locals. Inset, a pond at the ashram. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Historic Gandhi Ashram in need of care

SUSHANTA GHOSH with ANDREW EAGLE

There are twelve acres, but the site isn't much to look at. Mostly overgrown and uncared for, a few paddy fields and random ponds are leased out to local farmers. There's a fifty-foot long tin shed, a half-finished single-storey building and a primary school. The place in Bebaj village of Kalashkati union in Barisal's Bakerganj upazila might not be well-developed anymore, but it has quite a history. It's said to be the country's oldest Gandhi Ashram.

Established in 1946, the ashram named in honour of Mahatma Gandhi has been the responsibility of a ten-member trust committee since 2014. One of the trustees, Md Alauddin Howlader, 78, is an eyewitness to the institution's founding.

"Satindra Nath Sen was one of Gandhi's followers," Howlader recalls. "He was also a revolutionary leader in Barisal and Patuakhali against the British. He hoped to build an ashram for people's welfare. With this in mind and together with several associates, he purchased the land in Bebaj. It was called the Gandhi Seba Ashram at first, and after its inauguration, Gandhi's grandson Kanu Gandhi and his wife Ava Gandhi visited."

"The ashram was still only a small community in 1955 when Satindra died in a Dhaka jail. With our leaders, the followers of Gandhi sang 'Raghupati Raghob Raja Ram,'" Howlader recalls, referring to the bhajan song popular with Gandhi, which he and his followers famously sang as they completed the iconic 241-mile salt march to Dandi in 1930. "After that the ashram was renamed as the Santindra Memorial Gandhi Ashram," he adds.

"During the Liberation War the Pakistani Army attacked

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4